

## **EXHIBIT 15**

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 22 *Sharp Electronics Manufacturing Company of America, Inc.*

23 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
 24 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
 25 **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

26 IN RE: CATHODE RAY TUBE (CRT)  
 27 ANTITRUST LITIGATION

Case No.: 3:07-cv-5944-SC  
 MDL NO.: 1917

28 This Document Relates To:

*Sharp Electronics Corp., et al. v. Hitachi Ltd., et al.*

INDIVIDUAL CASE: 3:13-cv-01173-SC

**RESPONSE TO HITACHI  
 ELECTRONIC DEVICES (USA),  
 INC.'S SECOND SET OF  
 INTERROGATORIES TO SHARP  
 ELECTRONICS CORPORATION  
 AND SHARP ELECTRONICS  
 MANUFACTURING COMPANY OF  
 AMERICA, INC.**

1 **PROPOUNDING PARTY:** Defendant Hitachi Electronic Devices (USA), Inc.

2 **RESPONDING PARTIES:** Sharp Electronics Corporation and Sharp Electronics  
3 Manufacturing Company of America, Inc.

4 **SET NO:** Two

5 Pursuant to Rules 26 and 33 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Rule 33.1  
6 of the Local Rules of the Northern District of California, Sharp Electronics Corporation (“SEC”) and Sharp Electronics Manufacturing Company of America, Inc. (“SEMA”) (collectively,  
7 “Sharp”) hereby respond to Hitachi Electronic Devices (USA), Inc.’s First Set of Interrogatories,  
8 dated July 2, 2014 (the “Interrogatories”) as follows:

9 **GENERAL OBJECTIONS**

10 The following general objections (“General Objections”) are incorporated in  
11 Sharp’s responses (“Responses”) to each and every interrogatory contained in the Interrogatories.  
12 No Response to any interrogatory shall be deemed a waiver of Sharp’s General Objections.

13 1. Sharp objects to the Interrogatories and the instructions therein to the extent that they seek  
14 to impose obligations on Sharp beyond those imposed by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,  
15 the Local Civil Rules of the Northern District of California, or any applicable order of the Court.

16 2. Sharp objects to the Interrogatories on the grounds that they are improperly being used as  
17 a discovery device, are oppressive, unduly burdensome and violate the rule of proportionality  
18 embodied in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(2)(C).

19 3. Sharp objects to the Interrogatories to the extent that they seek or call for information that  
20 can equally or more readily, conveniently, and in a less burdensome fashion be obtained by  
21 Defendants from public sources.

22 4. Sharp objects to the Interrogatories to the extent that they seek or call for information that  
23 can equally or more readily, conveniently, and in a less burdensome fashion be obtained by  
24 Defendants from others.

25 5. Sharp objects to the Interrogatories to the extent that they seek information that is neither  
26 relevant to this litigation, nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible  
27 evidence. Further, these Responses and Objections are without prejudice to, and not a waiver of,  
28

1 Sharp's right to contend at trial or otherwise in this action that such information is irrelevant,  
2 immaterial, inadmissible, or not a proper basis for discovery, nor any objection by Sharp to any  
3 future use of such information.

4 6. Sharp objects to the Interrogatories to the extent that they are unintelligible, vague,  
5 ambiguous, overly broad, unduly burdensome, and oppressive.

6 7. Sharp objects to the Interrogatories to the extent that they seek or call for information not  
7 in Sharp's possession, custody, or control.

8 8. Documents produced by Sharp in this litigation shall be deemed produced in response to  
9 these Interrogatories, subject to the Responses and Objections contained herein. The burden of  
10 identifying specific information or documents responsive to these Interrogatories from documents  
11 produced in the course of this litigation is substantially the same for either party, and Sharp is  
12 entitled to elect the option to produce business records pursuant to Rule 33(d) of the Federal  
13 Rules of Civil Procedure.

14 9. Sharp objects to the Interrogatories to the extent that they seek or call for information or  
15 documents protected from disclosure by the attorney-client privilege, the attorney work product  
16 doctrine, or any other privilege, protection, or immunity applicable under the governing law. Any  
17 information disclosed pursuant to the Interrogatories will be disclosed without waiving, but on the  
18 contrary reserving and intending to reserve, each of these privileges, protections, or immunities.  
19 Any accidental disclosure of privileged information or material shall not be deemed a waiver of  
20 the applicable privilege, protection, or immunity.

21 10. Sharp objects to the Interrogatories to the extent that they are duplicative and/or  
22 cumulative, either internally of themselves or of discovery previously propounded to Sharp by  
23 other defendants in this matter. Each such Interrogatory violates Section XV, subsections D and  
24 E, of the Court's "Order Re Discovery and Case Management Protocol," entered on April 3,  
25 2012. Order Re: Discovery and Case Management Protocol, *In re Cathode Ray Tube Antitrust*  
26 *Litigation*, Case No. 07-cv-05944-SC, MDL No. 1917 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 3, 2012) (MDL Dkt. No.  
27 1128).  
28

11. Sharp objects to the Interrogatories, including the instructions and definitions, on the grounds that Sharp will incur substantial expense in complying with them.

12. Sharp objects to the Interrogatories to the extent that they prematurely call for expert testimony and states that Sharp will provide expert disclosures as provided by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the orders of the court.

13. Sharp objects to the Interrogatories to the extent that they call for speculation or call for a conclusion on an issue of law.

14. Sharp objects to the Interrogatories to the extent they seek information about contentions or call for all evidence or all information in support of allegations or contentions. Such Interrogatories are premature, Sharp has not completed its discovery and preparation in this matter, and its investigation of this case is ongoing. These responses are being made after reasonable inquiry into the relevant facts, and are based only upon the information and documentation that is presently known to Sharp. Further investigation and discovery may result in the identification of additional information or contentions, and Sharp reserves the right to supplement and modify its responses. Sharp's responses should not be construed to prejudice its right to conduct further investigation in this case, or to limit Sharp's use of any additional evidence that may be developed.

15. Sharp objects to, and expressly disclaims, any need or intent to prove any facts listed herein as a prerequisite to proving its claims at trial.

16. Sharp reserves its right to try its case as it determines is best at trial. This includes by not using facts or information stated herein or using facts or information in addition to those stated therein.

17. Sharp's responses will be subject to the Stipulated Protective Order entered in this action (MDL Dkt. No. 306).

18. Sharp objects to the Interrogatories to the extent they contain any incidental or implied admission of fact or law. Sharp's responses to all or any part of any Interrogatory should not be taken as an incidental or implied admission, agreement, or concurrence that: (i) Sharp accepts or admits an express or implied assumption of fact set forth in or assumed by the Interrogatory; (ii)

1 Sharp accepts or admits any express or implied assumption of law set forth in or assumed by the  
2 Interrogatory; (iii) Sharp has in its possession, custody or control documents or information  
3 responsive to that Interrogatory; or (iv) documents or information responsive to that Interrogatory  
4 exist.

5 19. Sharp objects to the Interrogatories to the extent that they call for speculation or call for a  
6 conclusion on an issue of law.

7 20. Sharp reserves its right to object to and/or challenge any evidence on grounds of  
8 competency, relevance, materiality, privilege, or admissibility at trial or at any hearing or  
9 proceeding with respect to any admissions sought by the Interrogatories and all answers Plaintiffs  
10 provide in response to these Interrogatories.

11 21. Sharp objects to the extent the Interrogatories misrepresent Sharp's allegations and the  
12 opinions expressed by Sharp's expert(s) in this case.

13 22. Sharp objects to the definition of "CRT" to the extent that it mischaracterizes Sharp's  
14 Complaint. Sharp interprets the term "CRTs" as defined in its complaint as "CPTs and CDTs of  
15 all sizes."

16 23. Sharp objects to the definitions of "CDT PRODUCT," "CPT PRODUCT," and "CRT  
17 PRODUCT" to the extent that they mischaracterize and are inconsistent with the definition of  
18 CRT Products in the Complaint. For purposes of these responses only, Sharp shall use the terms  
19 "CDT PRODUCT," "CPT PRODUCT," and "CRT PRODUCT" to mean electronic devices  
20 containing CDTs (such as monitors) and CPTs (such as televisions).

21 24. Sharp objects to the definition of "'DOCUMENT' or 'DOCUMENTS'" as vague,  
22 ambiguous, and unreasonably broad and, depending upon Defendants' meaning may call for a  
23 legal conclusion. Sharp also objects to the definition of "'DOCUMENT' or 'DOCUMENTS'" to  
24 the extent that it calls for documents that are subject to the attorney-client privilege, the work  
25 product doctrine, other applicable privilege, or are not in Sharp's possession, custody or control.

26 25. Sharp objects to the definition of "IDENTIFY" because it is overly broad, unduly  
27 burdensome, and oppressive insofar as it requires that Sharp identify and locate numerous  
28 individuals involved in thousands of discrete purchases made over the course of more than 12

1 years, dating back to 1995. Sharp also objects to the definition of “IDENTIFY” with respect to  
2 identifying persons and identifying events or occurrences to the extent that it calls for information  
3 beyond Sharp’s possession, custody or control. Moreover, virtually all of the individuals  
4 responsive to these requests are current or former employees of the Hitachi Defendants or their  
5 co-conspirators, and that information is therefore fully known to Hitachi or is otherwise  
6 discoverable by less burdensome methods.

7 26. Sharp objects to the definition of “YOU,” “YOUR,” and “YOURSELF” as overbroad,  
8 vague, and not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. In  
9 responding to the Interrogatories directed to “YOU” or “YOUR,” Sharp will respond for the  
10 Plaintiffs SEC and SEMA and persons acting on their behalf.

11 27. Sharp objects to Instruction No. 1 to the extent that it calls for information that is the  
12 subject of the attorney-client privilege, the work product doctrine, or any other applicable  
13 privilege, or is not in Plaintiffs’ possession, custody or control.

14 28. Sharp objects to Instruction No. 7 because the construction of “and” to include “or” and  
15 vice versa is vague, ambiguous, and confusing, and likely to create multiple, contradictory  
16 meanings from the same language. Sharp uses “and” and “or” according to their ordinary  
17 meanings.

18 29. Sharp objects to Instruction No. 8 because it is vague, ambiguous, and confusing and  
19 likely to create multiple, contradictory meanings from the same language. Sharp refers to  
20 singular and plural nouns according to their ordinary meanings.

21 30. Sharp objects to Instruction No. 9 because it is vague, ambiguous, and confusing and  
22 likely to create multiple, contradictory meanings from the same language. Sharp uses the present  
23 and past tenses according to their ordinary meanings.

24 31. Sharp objects to Instruction No. 10 because the construction of “any” to include “all” and  
25 vice versa is vague, ambiguous, and confusing, and likely to create multiple, contradictory  
26 meanings from the same language. Sharp further objects to the definition of “any” and “all” as  
27 not reasonably limited in scope or time. Sharp uses “any” and “all” according to their ordinary  
28 meanings.

**RESPONSES TO INTERROGATORIES****Interrogatory No. 15:**

If YOUR response to any of Hitachi Electronic Devices (USA), Inc.'s First Set of Requests for Admission To Sharp Electronics Corporation and Sharp Electronics Manufacturing Company of America, Inc. was anything other than an unqualified admission, separately for each Request for Admission:<sup>1</sup>

- a. state the number of the request for admission;
- b. state all facts upon which YOU base YOUR response;
- c. IDENTIFY all EVIDENCE upon which YOU intend to rely to support YOUR response; and
- d. IDENTIFY each PERSON who has knowledge of the facts upon which YOU base YOUR response.

**Response to Interrogatory No. 15:**

**Requests for Admission Nos. 1 through 10:** Sharp refers to and incorporates its General Objections to these Interrogatories, as well as its specific objections to Requests for Admission Nos. 1 through 20, as if fully restated here. Sharp also objects to this Interrogatory to the extent that it calls for information that is already in the possession, custody, or control of Defendants, or that can equally or more readily, conveniently, and in a less burdensome fashion be obtained by Defendants. Sharp further objects to this Interrogatory, in combination with the accompanying Requests for Admission served simultaneously, on the grounds that it is premature, and that it seeks to impose an undue burden on Sharp to state its entire case on an incomplete record and review and analyze all information obtained in discovery thus far at this stage of this litigation. Sharp objects that this Interrogatory improperly requires Sharp to marshal all evidence in support of its case, including all testimony, in responses to written discovery, but particularly while discovery is ongoing and in advance of the applicable deadlines set by the Court for disclosure of pretrial information. Sharp further objects to the Interrogatory on the grounds that it is vague,

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<sup>1</sup> See Special Master Martin Quinn's Order re Rules For Responding to Reciprocal Written Discovery Requests Regarding The Parties' Contentions, *In re TFT-LCD (Flat Panel) Antitrust Litig.*, MDL No. 1827 (Dkt. No. 2576) (filed March 21, 2011) (ordering direct purchaser plaintiffs to "respond now . . . based on the information and analysis presently available to them" to an interrogatory seeking the bases for plaintiffs' denials of requests for admission).



1 ambiguous, overly broad, unduly burdensome, and oppressive, and on the grounds that it is  
2 cumulative and duplicative of other discovery propounded in this case, and is therefore in  
3 violation of the Special Master's Order Regarding Individual Action Plaintiffs and Case  
4 Management (MDL Dkt. No. 1727, May 3, 2010). Sharp additionally objects to the Interrogatory  
5 as requiring the attribution of a particular action to a specific Hitachi entity when all of the  
6 Hitachi entities named as defendants were owned and controlled and acted pursuant to the overall  
7 strategy and direction of Hitachi, Ltd. Sharp also objects to this Interrogatory on the grounds that  
8 it seeks, in contravention to well-established legal principles, to dismember the overall conspiracy  
9 to focus on its separate parts, instead of looking at it as a whole. *See Continental Ore Co. v.*  
10 *Union Carbide & Carbon Corp.*, 370 U.S. 690, 699 (1962); *Beltz Travel Service, Inc. v. Int'l Air*  
11 *Trans. Assoc.*, 620 F.2d 1360, 1366-67 (9th Cir. 1980) (citing *United States v. Patten*, 226 U.S.  
12 525, 544 (1913)). All conspirators are jointly liable for the acts of their co-conspirators and the  
13 action of any of the conspirators in furtherance of the conspiracy is, in law, the action of all. *Id.*  
14 Sharp further objects to the extent this request calls for expert testimony. Sharp also objects to  
15 the extent that this request calls for information that is covered by attorney-client privilege or the  
16 work product protection. Sharp further states that it has not completed its discovery and  
17 preparation in this matter and that its investigation of the case is ongoing, and Sharp reserves its  
18 right to supplement or amend its response to this Request consistent with Federal Rule of Civil  
19 Procedure 26(e).

20 Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, Sharp states that the response to  
21 this Interrogatory may include the transactional data and documents produced by Defendants, co-  
22 conspirators, and third parties in MDL No. 1917. The burden of identifying specific documents  
23 responsive to this Interrogatory from review of the documents and data identified in this response  
24 is substantially the same for either Sharp or Hitachi Electronic Devices (USA), Inc. Sharp further  
25 states that information responsive to this Interrogatory is contained in the following, which are  
26 incorporated here by reference:

27 Exhibit A to these Responses;  
28

1 the expert report of Dr. Jerry A. Hausman dated April 15, 2014 and accompanying  
2 materials;

3 the supplemental report of Dr. Jerry A. Hausman dated July 3, 2014 and  
4 accompanying materials;

5 Demonstrative Exhibit 1 to the expert report of Jerry A. Hausman dated July 15, 2014;  
6 Hitachi Displays, Ltd.'s Supplemental Response to Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs' First  
7 Set of Interrogatories, No. 5 (February 10, 2012);

8 Hitachi Displays, Ltd.'s (n/k/a Japan Display Inc.) Second Supplemental Response to  
9 Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs' First Set of Interrogatories, Interrogatory No. 5 (April 12,  
10 2013);

11 Hitachi Electronic Devices (USA), Inc.'s Supplemental Response to Direct Purchaser  
12 Plaintiffs' First Set of Interrogatories, Interrogatory No. 5 (February 10, 2012);

13 Hitachi Electronic Devices (USA), Inc.'s Second Supplemental Response to Direct  
14 Purchaser Plaintiffs' First Set of Interrogatories, Interrogatory No. 5 (April 26, 2013);

15 Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V.'s Responses and Objections to Direct Purchaser  
16 Plaintiffs' First Set of Interrogatories Nos. 4 and 5 (March 21, 2012);

17 Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V. and Philips Electronics North America  
18 Corporation Responses and Objections to Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs' First Set of  
19 Interrogatories Nos. 4 and 5 (July 18, 2012);

20 LG Electronics, Inc.'s Supplemental Responses to Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs' First  
21 Set of Interrogatories, Interrogatories Nos. 4 and 5 (Feb. 10, 2012);

22 LG Electronics, Inc.'s Second Supplemental Responses to Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs'  
23 First Set of Interrogatories, Interrogatories Nos. 4 and 5;

24 Panasonic Corporation of North America, MT Picture Display Co., Ltd., and

25 Panasonic Corporation (f/k/a Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.) Second

26 Supplemental Responses and Objections to Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs' First Set of  
27 Interrogatories (November 2, 2011);  
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1 Panasonic Corporation of North America, MT Picture Display Co., Ltd., and  
2 Panasonic Corporation (f/k/a Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.) Third  
3 Supplemental Responses and Objections to Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs' First Set of  
4 Interrogatories (December 23, 2011);  
5 Philips' Supplemental Responses to Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs' First Set of  
6 Interrogatories, Interrogatories Nos. 4 and 5 (March 21, 2012);  
7 Philips' Second Supplemental Responses to Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs' First Set of  
8 Interrogatories, Interrogatories Nos. 4 and 5 (July 18, 2012);  
9 Samsung SDI Defendants' Responses to Direct Action Plaintiffs' First Set of  
10 Interrogatories (May 12, 2010);  
11 Samsung SDI Defendants' Supplemental Responses to Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs'  
12 First Set of Interrogatories Nos. 4 and 5 (October 17, 2011);  
13 Samsung SDI Defendants' Second Supplemental to Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs' First  
14 Set of Interrogatories Nos. 4 and 5 (November 25, 2013);  
15 Samsung SDI Co., Ltd.'s Responses to Dell Plaintiffs' First Set of Interrogatories  
16 (November 25, 2013);  
17 Samsung SDI Co., Ltd.'s Responses to Dell Plaintiffs' First Set of Requests for  
18 Admission (November 25, 2013);  
19 Toshiba America Electronic Components, Inc.'s Supplemental Objections and  
20 Responses to Interrogatory Nos. 4 and 5 of Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs' First Set of  
21 Interrogatories (February 10, 2012);  
22 Toshiba Corporation's Supplemental Objections and Responses to Interrogatory Nos.  
23 4 and 5 of Direct Purchaser Plaintiffs' First Set of Interrogatories (February 10, 2012);  
24 Sharp's Responses to Thomson SA and Thomson Consumer's First Set of  
25 Interrogatories, Nos. 2 & 8 (July 10, 2014); and  
26 Sharp's Objections and Responses to MT Picture Display Co., Ltd. and LG  
27 Electronics USA, Inc.'s Second Set of Interrogatories, Nos. 16 & 17 and Exhibit A to  
28 those responses (July 28, 2014).

1 Sharp further states that additional individuals with knowledge of the issues raised in  
2 Requests for Admission Nos. 1 through 10 that have not been previously mentioned, include, but  
3 are not limited to, all individuals referenced in documents introduced as exhibits during any  
4 deposition in MDL No. 1917, but who Plaintiffs have not been able to depose at this time.

5  
6 **Requests for Admission Nos. 11 through 69:** In addition to the specific objections  
7 stated above, with respect to this Interrogatory as applied to Requests for Admission 20 through  
8 66, Sharp further objects because it exceeds the limit set forth by Fed. R. Civ. P. 33.  
9 Interrogatories that ask the “responding party to state the facts, identify witnesses, or identify  
10 documents supporting the denial of each request for admission contained in a set of requests for  
11 admissions” should be construed as containing a subpart for each request for admission. *See*  
12 *Safeco Ins. Co. of Am. v. Rawstron*, 181 F.R.D. 441, 447 (C.D. Cal. 1998) (“Allowing service of  
13 an interrogatory which requests disclosure of all information on which the denials of each of 50  
14 requests for admission were based . . . essentially transforms each request for admission into an  
15 interrogatory. This is not the purpose requests for admissions were intended to serve, and  
16 because Rule 36 imposes no numerical limit on the number of requests for admissions that may  
17 be served, condoning such a practice would circumvent the numerical limit contained in Rule  
18 33(a).”); *see also* Local Rules 33-2 and 36-2.

19 DATED: August 4, 2014

By: /s/ Craig A. Benson

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